



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Two Men Plead Guilty to 2017 Burglaries at Elkridge Construction Sites

Two men charged in a series of burglaries at the Elkridge library while it was under construction last year have pleaded guilty in Howard County Circuit Court this morning. Michael Gregory Cheeks, 30 of the 500 block of Crownwood Ct., Aberdeen pleaded guilty to two counts of 2nd-degree burglary for the October 8, 2017 library burglary plus the November 12, 2017 burglary at the Elkridge construction site of a shopping center located in the 7100 block of Troy Hill Dr. Tyrone Howard, 31 of Edgewood, pleaded guilty to the October 8, 2nd-degree burglary at the library plus conspiracy to commit the September 15, 2nd-degree burglary of the library construction site.

The Elkridge branch of the Howard County Library System, located in the 6500 block of Washington Blvd. was being renovated and expanded last year when it was hit by a series of overnight thefts of power and hand tools, along with copper wiring. Surveillance video from the construction site and scrap metal dealers led to identification of vehicles and suspects in the burglaries. Assistant State's Attorney Natasha Byus told the court that scrap dealer transaction records also led to the arrests of Cheeks and Howard, along with two other men.

Judge Richard S. Bernhardt will sentence both Cheeks and Howard on December 14. Earl Nathaniel Watkins, Jr., 28 of the 3500 block of Manchester Avenue in Baltimore, pleaded guilty to two counts of 2nd-degree burglary on July 16 and will be sentenced October 4. He remains free on bond. A 28-year-old Edgewood man, Lennard Jerrod Darby, pleaded guilty on July 2 to burglaries at the library and shopping center construction sites, and will be sentenced on October 12. He remains free on bond.

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